



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
Deborah R. Gilg

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

July 19, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg and the Nebraska State Patrol announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp sentenced Michael A. Norton, 34, to 12 years imprisonment for receiving child pornography. After his release from prison Norton will begin a ten-year term of supervised release.

On February 23, 2009, the Nebraska State Patrol was conducting undercover peer-to-peer computer investigations searching for individuals sharing child pornography. Twenty-four videos of suspected child pornography were observed on Norton's shared file folder.

A search warrant was executed on March 24, 2009. Fifty-eight videos of child pornography were found on Norton's computer. Norton fled Nebraska and became a fugitive. When arrested in Arizona he was found in possession of another computer with forty videos of child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

This matter was investigated by the Omaha FBI's Cyber Crime Task Force, of which the Nebraska State Patrol, is a partner. The Omaha CCTF is a multi-jurisdictional task force consisting of eleven federal, state and local law enforcement agencies from Nebraska and Iowa. The mission of the Omaha CCTF is to investigate and apprehend high technology criminals and to protect our communities by preventing high technology crime and national security threats involving computers and computer networks. The Omaha CCTF was established on the premise that the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to investigate computer and high technology

related crimes are enhanced in a task force setting involving the sharing of resources and expertise.

Name of Defendant: Michael A. Norton

AKA:

Age: 34

City of residence: Omaha, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Receipt and distribution of child pornography, NLT 5-20 years imprisonment, \$250,000, NLT 5 years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On and before the 23rd day of February, 2009, and on and before the 24rd day of March, 2009

Federal Arrest Date: July 8, 2009

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: May 21, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: July 8, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Plead guilty on April 23, 2010

Sentencing Date: July 19, 2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: F.A. Gossett

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without Bond as of February 1, 2010.

In Continuous Custody Since: February 1, 2010

Assigned District Court Judge: Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: MPN